

of rocks in the rapidly flowing parts of the stream were large numbers of the larvae and pupae of *Simulium tonnoiri* (Diptera).

In the calmer parts of the stream and the adjacent pools were tadpoles of a species of *Helioporus* and of a *Crinia*. The following adult frogs were identified: *Crinia glauerti*, *C. georgiana*, *C. leai*, *Hyla adalaidensis* and specimens of the Wheatbelt race of the species named *Crinia signifera* in *Key to the Frogs of South-western Australia*. The fishes collected were a goby (*Lizagobius olorum*) and an Atherine (*Atherinosoma edelensis*) — both identified by Mr. G. P. Whitley — and the Pygmy Perch (*Edelia vittata*). The Freshwater Cobbler (*Tandanus bostocki*) and a *Galaxias* sp. were seen.

Of the terrestrial invertebrates those which attracted the most attention were the abundant trapdoor spiders *Synothele michaelseni* (Barychelidae) and *Arbanites festivus* (Ctenizidae); both of these build burrows in the moist clay banks of the stream. The native snail *Bothriembryon serpentinus* was found in a number of localities.

As it was a hot day birds were not much in evidence. Dr. D. L. Serventy reported the Kookaburra, Sacred Kingfisher, Golden Bronze Cuckoo (calling), Grey Fantail, Rufous Whistler, Western Warbler, Brown Thornbill, Banded Blue Wren, Red-tipped Diamond-bird, Silveryeye, Brown Honeyeater, Red Wattle-bird, Raven, Grey Butcher-bird and Magpie.

The area deserves to be collected more thoroughly for it appears to be near to the northern limit of *Crinia leai*, *Arbanites festivus* and *Bothriembryon serpentinus*, and is the southern limit of *Synthele michaelseni*. In addition the valley acts as a corridor through which at least the Wheatbelt race of *Crinia signifera* has penetrated.

A fuller study of the fauna may indicate a great mixing of northern, southern and eastern faunas in this part of the valley.

—A. R. MAIN

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Early Nesting of Black-faced Wood-Swallow (*Artamus melanops*).—The Black-faced Wood-Swallow has been referred to as a November-January breeder in the south-west of this State (Serventy and Whittell, *Birds of Western Australia*). It has come under our notice that this is not always the case. In October, 1953, we observed a group of Black-faced Wood-Swallows which became agitated and annoyed at our presence in their vicinity which is unlike them in their off-nesting period. This was found to be due to the group of wood-swallows protecting three young. It seemed that this species had a communal habit in the raising of their young, as there were only three fledglings and 12 adult birds. We concluded that nesting activities must have commenced during September.

—J. R. and W. C. FORD, Fremantle.